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# VALLEY STAR

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LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

## Students Stress Final Exams

By IVY DAI  
STAFF WRITER

Spring semester will be over soon, but with final exams next week, students can't relax just yet. Although the end is near, stress levels are up for Valley College students striving to do well on their finals.

"More students are stressed now," student health clinic nurse Barbara Perlman said. "Their shoulder hurts, stomach hurts, head hurts. We ask if they've been under extreme stress recently and, a lot of times, the answer is yes."

In addition to upset stomachs, stress triggers other gastrointestinal problems, including constipation and diarrhea. Studies have found stress is linked to heart disease and peptic ulcers and can lead to anxiety and depression.

Psychologists have found consistent relationships between stressful events and illness in various studies. They earliest definition of stress was "the rate of all wear and tear caused by life," according to psychologist Hans Selye.

Perlman suggests exercising, going out, calling a friend to chat and taking a little time away from the books may take the edge off.

Valley students do different things to relieve the jitters of impending final exams.

"I smoke," student Chester Robinson said. Other students turn to working out at the gym or taking exercise classes, like yoga.

"At the end of class the lights were turned out," student Rocio Campos said. "Our teacher told us to lay down and relax. I fell asleep once."

See 'FINALS' on page 7



SAMANTHA KUPPIG / VALLEY STAR

**GOT STRESS?** - Valley student Adam Springfield relieves stress by practicing yoga. Here he is shown demonstrating a yogic position in the Lankershim subway station in North Hollywood.

## Prop AA Fuels Big Changes

By KRISTA CARLSON  
NEWS EDITOR

Valley College's revitalization work has gone smoothly, according to renovation officials, and additional improvements are possible with the Proposition AA funds. Valley budgeted most of the work in the master plan with funds from the \$165 million campus received under spring 2001's Proposition A. The recently-passed bond measure Proposition AA will give an additional \$980 million to the Los Angeles Community College District. Valley President Tyree Wieder estimates the school will receive roughly \$100 million.

"The biggest issue on this campus is renovations," Wieder said. "Each amount of money assigned to each project is a lot less than needed. We'll be able to do a lot more that students will see."

Before the funds are divided, colleges will use about \$100 million of Proposition AA funds to retire debts they owe the district office. Included are funds used to create two satellite campuses, one in South Gate and one in Eagle Rock, and college projects to meet energy standards.

"The measure gives us the opportunity to build buildings in the master plan not under Proposition A, including the computer business technology center and the child development facilities," said Alix O'Brien, project manager of URS, the company overseeing campus renovations. "It would also give much needed monies for the renovation projects across the campus."

The additional funds will go to site improvements to parking, roads, infrastructure and landscape.

"It might give the campus a newer look which could attract more students," student Mayram Tufani said of the renovation plans. "I know some don't come here because they think the buildings are old," Tufani said she would like to see air conditioning in every building.

A selection committee comprised of faculty, staff members and O'Brien have chosen the architectural firms Anshen & Allen of Los Angeles to design the allied health sciences building and La Cañada Flintridge to design the campus operations center.

"We put together a very conceptual design that had to go to the state for funding," said Sara

See 'REVITALIZATION' on page 5

## Graduates Sell Skills in Waning Market

By JACQUI BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Today's unemployment statistics may lure students to continue their education rather than face a bleak job market. Although California was one of nine states that saw a drop in unemployment rates this month, the state stands at 6.3 percent, which is about the national average.

"When I was on the plane to the United States, I never thought finding a job would be this difficult," student James Dweh said. Dweh recently moved to the United States from Africa where he attended college

and worked as an administrative assistant in a government office. "I started looking for a job, something I wanted to go into. I've had several interviews, but nothing seems to turn up."

Dweh works part time in security and attends the Friday Job Club, which meets weekly to help people with employment issues. He's determined to find a job and has left no stone unturned in his quest.

"I've registered with several job agencies but the applications are just lying around somewhere," Dweh said. "You don't even get a call at all." Dweh said he wants to attend UCLA next semester.

Chris Christensen, from the East San Gabriel Valley Regional Occupational Program, conducts the job club on campus every Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in bungalow 74.

"People are using this as a stepladder to gain the necessary training they need to re-enter the market," Christensen said. "Some are here for the first time,

See 'JOBS' on page 5

## Local Businesses Vie for Contracts

By KATHY ARELLANO  
COPY EDITOR

Small business owners from Valley Glen, Studio City and North Hollywood are itching to earn their share of close to \$500 million the City of Los Angeles spends annually on supplies, according to city records.

City of Los Angeles buyers came to Monarch Hall Thursday to teach the community how to do just that, during a business fair sponsored by Mayor James Hahn and Councilwoman Wendy Greuel in conjunction with the Universal/North Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

"My family owned a local trucking business for 60 years," Greuel said. "I want Los Angeles to be a business-friendly city."

Entrepreneurs had an opportunity to learn how to

apply for a business license, get proper tax documents and permits, receive technical assistance and access financial products available to small business owners.

"The city wants to do business with the community," Greuel representative Laura Stoll said. "The community can learn how to do business with the city."

Brownstone Screen Printing, a fixture in North Hollywood since 1977, is a small business that bids for big contracts with the city. Their first city job was an order for 20,000 screen-printed promotional T-shirts for "Operation Sparkle," a Los Angeles Police Department graffiti clean-up campaign. Brownstone screen prints canvas book bags for Valley College Paralegal and Human Resource extension students.

See 'BUSINESS' on page 7



BENJAMIN FAVELA / VALLEY STAR

**GET HIRED** - Isaac Ike, procurement supervisor for the city of Los Angeles Supply Services Division, speaks to local business owners about the commerce prospects with the City of Los Angeles during the business fair at Monarch Hall Thursday.





ALEX DASH / VALLEY STAR

**CLOSE UP-** Valley Student Jessie Salazar discusses important issues with Tyree Wieder, president of Valley College, during a taping of the television show "California Connected." The show is hosted by Chris Franco, (seated far right) and airs Thursdays at 8 p.m.

## Valley's 'California Connection'

By JACQUI BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

The televised news magazine "California Connected" entered Valley College recently to film a documentary about the steps community colleges will take in the wake of a \$300 million state-wide budget cut and inform the public of the struggles in the college world. The show will air on all PBS California affiliates at 8 p.m. June 12.

Chris Franco, Valley alumnus is the weekly host of "California Connected."

Producer Mimi Kent said she wanted to tape the show at Valley because of Franco's connection, and because she wanted to interview Valley President Tyree Wieder, who she saw as hands-on and knew many students by name.

"It looked like it was going to be a \$400 million budget cut," Kent said. "One might say the protests on campuses and in the capitol might have had a positive effect, because the governor did a little backpedaling and instead of raising tuition to \$24, he only raised it to \$18."

Mathius Gertz, one of several graduating students inter-

viewed, said he was thankful for the amazing teaching staff and for the university-style education and degree he received. The USC film production program has accepted him.

"The cuts are going to reduce offerings and increase class size," Gertz said. "It will lengthen the time that many Valley students have to stay in school. The increased tuition will be a financial burden on many low-income families and a deterrent for many to even attempt to receive a college education."

## Toilets Get Trashed

By JACQUI BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Students might find themselves humming "It's My Potty and I'll Cry if I Want To" next time they reach for a few squares of toilet paper in the music building - they will find a gaping hole where there was once a toilet paper dispenser. Vandals have hit this facility several times in the last two months and caused nearly \$1,000 in damage.

"We're not really sure who's doing this," Valley College President Tyree Wieder said. "It may be students from Valley or from the high school next door."

Police reports show the most common damage is inflicted on soap dispensers, toilet paper and paper towel holders and the occasional door hinge. Vandals have ripped these things off the walls and thrown them on the floor or tossed them into the trashcans.

"I don't know what's prompted this rash of vandal-

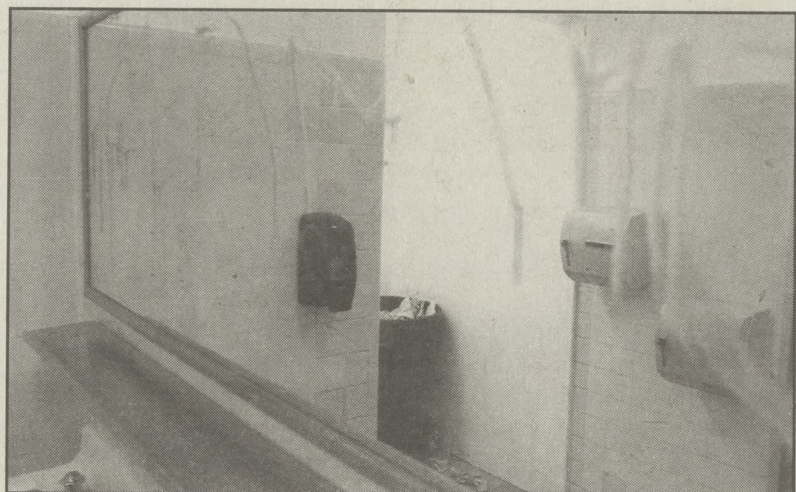
ism," said Chauncey Maddren, who teaches in the music building. "It's interesting that three of the incidents I know of happened on Thursdays. I think it happens in the late afternoon in that lull between the end of afternoon classes and the start of night classes."

Restroom-goers have reported other damage, such as graffiti, in several other bathrooms around campus, but the

damage seems less severe. Plant facilities employees said the bathrooms outside the cafeteria have suffered much damage. Criminals have scratched mirrors and recently tried to kick out a partition between urinals.

One employee from plant facilities said that, although this seems like an insubstantial amount of monetary damage,

See 'TOILETS' on page 5



BENJAMIN FAVELA / VALLEY STAR

**POTTY POOPERS** - Campus securities and plant facilities employees often complain of vandalism in campus restrooms.

## From the Blotter: Vehicular Crimes Frequent in May

By JAMES DABBAGIAN  
STAFF WRITER

Campus security dealt with numerous vehicular crimes at Valley College during the month of May. Officials recommend not inviting thieves by leaving windows unrolled or car keys unattended in public.

\*\*\*\*\*

May 15, 1 p.m.

A woman reported her keys stolen from the Lions Den, according to a campus security report. She left her keys on a computer keyboard and later dis-

covered them gone when she went to her car, authorities said. She then told security her parking permit and a CD case containing 40 CDs worth \$210 were stolen from her vehicle, according to the report. She said she thinks the thief may be someone who knows her.

\*\*\*\*\*

May 15, 6 p.m.

A man parked in lot B reportedly had \$100 worth of items stolen from his car, authorities said. The man left his driver's-side window down and

when he got back to his car, he was missing a blue Nokia cell phone and a black Erikson radio for the Los Angeles Park and recreation system, both worth \$50 each.

\*\*\*\*\*

May 15, 9:30 a.m.

A man in parking Lot D punched in the driver door lock to a Toyota Camry, according to authorities. The suspect rummaged through the car he got inside, but left immediately, when he saw someone in another car, the report said.

## Graduating Students Stay Close to Home

By KRISTA CARSLON  
NEWS EDITOR

As Valley College graduates prepare to leave, many may wonder what will become of Valley alumni. Most Valley students transfer, particularly to UCLA and CSUN. Valley students also transfer to CSU Los Angeles, UC Berkeley and UC Irvine.

"CSUN always takes it," UCLA Peer Counselor Franklin Montiel said. "And for majors, child development is always a popular one. Then there's political science, and business is huge for students transferring to the Cal State system."

Many students that transfer to the UC system go into political science, sociology, and psychology, Montiel said. Sixty-four percent of Valley's transfer students for the 2001-2002 year transferred to UCLA.

"The thing that's most important is that students choose

schools based not on popularity but on majors offered for the student," UCLA Peer Counselor Caprice Terry said. "It all depends on the individual and the resources needed by that individual." Atmosphere has a lot to do with the school a student chooses, Terry said.

In 2001-02, 674 Valley students transferred to the CSU system and 159 to the UC system.

"I want to attend the University of Southern California," student Lisa Niehaws said. "If I don't get a scholarship I'll have to go to CSUN, even if I don't want to."

The average grade point average for Valley transfer students to the CSU system is 2.87, which closely matches that of other incoming students to the CSU system. The CSU system awarded 550 degrees to Valley transfer students last year, including 438 at CSUN.

The most popular degrees awarded to Valley students are in

liberal arts and child development, with numbers consistently in the 300 range, then comes nursing and economics. The trends for associate degrees and certificates have been consistent for the last six years.

Valley's communications and theater arts programs are popular, but they don't rank high on the transfer list because of the limited opportunities.

"Most students are aware that these programs are very competitive throughout the nation," Montiel said.

Student Juan Juarez changed his major from engineering to cinema because he didn't like the engineering curriculum.

"In high school I did video projects for classes and everybody enjoyed them," Juarez said. "That was my happiest time."

But many say cinema isn't

See 'CLOSE' on page 7

## TIPS Disbands, Valley Students Say No Butts

By KRISTA CARSLON  
NEWS EDITOR

The Tobacco Intervention Program for Students (TIPS) at Valley College has disbanded recently due to lack of funds. TIPS is responsible for a no-smoking ordinance the Valley College Council passed in February. TIPS worked with Valley students for over a year.

"We're trying to get money for the school for ashtrays," said Tim Knappen, TIPS Coordinator 0000 and men's physical education facilities manager. "A little hut with an ashtray is \$2,500, but we can't even find enough benches to put an ashtray next to."

The ordinance designates 11 areas on campus as smoking

zones. Thieves have stolen ashcans from several locations, including one outside the administration building.

"Everything was going real good until we ran out of money because of the budget cuts," Knappen said. "We agreed we're going to make due with as little as possible." Knappen is starting the "No Butts" club to keep cigarette butts off the ground at Valley. "Our main goal is to get more kids to pick up the butts," Knappen said.

ASU supported the no-smoking resolution.

"They haven't been active all semester," said Sherri Rodriguez, Associated Student Union adviser. "That's a shame. They've come to all our meetings."

Some of the dirtiest areas are the three benches in between Monarch Hall and the humanities building and outside the theater arts building. "It's funny because there's an ashtray there," Knappen said. Knappen thinks many theater arts students smoke because of the amount of TV and movie actors who smoke and the connection smoking has had with actors like James Dean's intensity and sexual attraction.

"If they want to smoke they should go off campus to smoke," student Mary Bedrossian said. Bedrossian thinks security should ticket smokers when they litter. "It's their responsibility to pick up their butts and throw

See 'TIPS' on page 5

## Star Students Perform at Graduation

*Two speakers chosen for graduation commencement.*

By JACQUI BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Eight candidates vied for two spots as speakers at this year's commencement ceremony. Each came with well-prepared speeches about their journey through the open doors of Valley College, the theme of this year's ceremony. The three to five minute speeches were factual, emotional and, for some, personal.

The two winners were Cherie Sander and Maria Agazaryan. They will take the podium June 10 at the Valley College Stadium and share with their fellow graduating students and families memories of what those who auditioned said were some of the hardest and greatest times of their lives.

"I'm somewhere in my 50s, back in school, and I went through breast cancer," Sander said. "It turned me around in such a way that I decided I wanted to do something in my life that would

See 'SPEAKERS' on page 5

*ASU triumvirate to sing national anthem at graduation.*

By BILLIE JORDAN  
STAFF WRITER

Three individuals and a trio auditioned Wednesday to sing the national anthem at graduation. The trio, comprised of Bo McGuire, Jessica Salazar and Maria Agazaryan, all members of the Associated Student Union, will do the honors at graduation June 10.

Music department chair Dianne Wintrob and instructional assistant Chauncey Maddren judged the audition. They originally planned to select just one person, but the trio wouldn't be ignored.

"We decided we would like for the ensemble to sing the national anthem," Wintrob said. "We like the idea because they're all graduating."

The trio began as a quartet, but one of the singers dropped out before the audition. Wintrob, who is the department's vocal instructor, is searching for a fourth member, a tenor, to complete the group. The award-winning Cal State Northridge

See 'ANTHEM' on page 7

### CORRECTIONS:

Due to editorial errors in the article "Preparations for Graduation" in the May 21 issue of the Valley Star, several facts were printed incorrectly. Graduation ceremonies will begin at 4:30 p.m. and not 4 p.m. The dean of admissions and not the graduation office mailed the graduation packets to students. Fall graduates haven't already received their diplomas in the mail and the only spring candidates who will get theirs in the mail are those living out of state, all others will receive a postcard telling them to pick it up in the graduation office. And lastly, Valley College graduation evaluation technician Martha Rios didn't give the quote, "Others don't care, they just want to complete their studies," it was a student who came to the graduation office for information.

Also in the May 21 issue, in the film review of "The Matrix: Reloaded," one of the actor's names was incorrect. Commander Lock was played by Harry J. Lennix, not Henry Lennix.



# OPINION

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## Editorial Cartoon

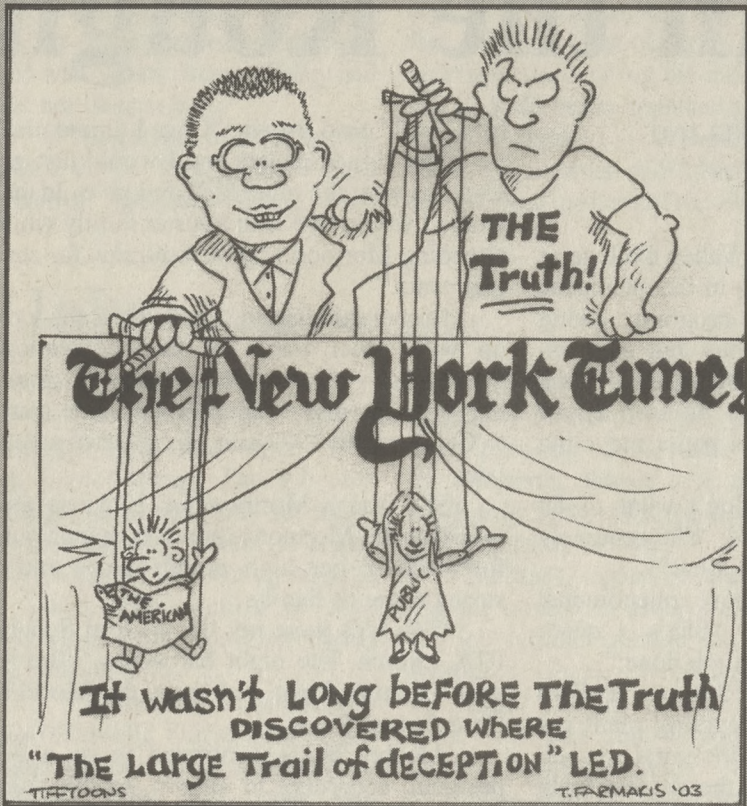


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

## AN OPINION

# Who Needs a Degree?

BY KATHARINE ANDERSON

Someone recently told me a bachelor's degree is worth nothing – it's equal to what a high school diploma was worth in 1950. As a student striving for higher education and a degree, this statement made me cringe. Is all of my hard work really for naught?

I started thinking about how different the world was 50 years ago. College educations were harder to find. The opportunities that abound today weren't available. Personal computers didn't exist. Corporate America wasn't what it is today.

A high school graduate then would get a well-paying blue-collar job, and with time, would work their way up. A two-year degree would have nabbed that executive position in a small-town bank. Those with bachelor's degrees were the presidents, vice presidents and executive board members of the family-owned companies that were later swallowed by corporations run by people with master's degrees.

Time passed and educational systems evolved. College became a reality for all – not just the upper class. With the availability of higher education and the growth of technology, the business world's standards rose. Today, a high school diploma from our deteriorating public schools will grant an entry-level position promising a

future of clawing the way up. A two-year degree will earn an executive trainee position. A bachelor's degree will land an executive position with a prestigious corporation. And for the CEO's and presidents – a master's degree, please.

Many corporations won't consider a candidate for an executive position unless they have at least a two-year degree, regardless of experience, but they'll pass that two-year degree over for a bachelor's. As far as careers that only require a high school diploma, like a future with the Los Angeles Police Department, the higher degree of education someone has, the more their salary will be. So why would anyone who has the opportunity to receive higher education settle for being passed over or paid less? I could not – and that is why I returned to earn my degree.

I'm not saying someone without a degree can't succeed. If one is smart, industrious and hardworking, they can earn those positions, but the road will be much longer. I trudged that road, and I earned that sought-after executive position through much persistence and effort. But what took me eight years to accomplish took an associate of mine four years, in college. He had an equal position in half the time and began with a higher salary. That tells me that a college education is worth something.

## CORRECTION

Due to an editorial error in the opinion "Berkeley Bans Beijing Bugs" in the May 14 issue of the Valley Star, it was printed that UC Berkeley isn't willing to refund the tuition fees of the banned students from SARS-infected regions. Berkeley's policy has been to refund the fees from the outset.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Judas Blair: Journalism's Dark Apostle

Everybody likes to talk shop and nobody more than journalists. In a field where it's your job to tell about everybody else's business, opportunities to tell about your own are hard to come by. When they do, every newspaperman from Maine to Morro Bay swarms like a buzzard to carrion.

New York Times reporter Jayson Blair resigned May 1 after fellow reporters and editors discovered at least 36 of 73 articles he wrote since his transfer to the national news desk last October were rife with factual errors, plagiarism and just plain fiction.

Researching him isn't difficult. Anyone who Googles Jayson Blair will find every columnist from the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel to Seattle Post Intelligencer chipping in with everything from polite indignation to utter rage – and even a few far out conspiracy theories. It's overwhelming.

We know a bandwagon when we jump on one here at the Valley Star, and we love to talk shop as much as anyone else in our field. Everyone's heard the professional journalists' assessments, now hear us amateurs.

Blair's resume from his University of Maryland days reads like "The Natural's." By age 25 he had been an intern reporter at The New York Times metro desk, a metro intern and then a national correspondent at the Boston Globe, the editor in chief of the Diamondback at the University of Maryland, intern reporter for the Globe's Washington Bureau, metro

intern for the Washington Post and the list goes on. All this before graduating from college, which he never bothered to do.

Journalism students dream about reporting for The New York Times like pitchers from the single A Lancaster Jethawks dream about taking the mound in Yankee pinstripes. At 27, Jayson Blair was living the dream. But he decided to forfeit that dream.

Some say the pressure at The Times was too much for someone so young and inexperienced compared to his peers. He

not a national news correspondent. To say race had anything to do with this quagmire is such a ludicrous concept no intelligent person should dignify it with a second thought.

But we'd be remiss if we didn't. Some affirmative action opponents are trying to use Blair as their great anti-hero. Though Blair takes offense at the implication he was an affirmative action hire, he said racism in The Times' newsroom was a major reason for his desire to hurt them.

"There are senior managers at The New York Times who want

apologies have fallen way short of their mark," a Kentuckian called Dkelsmith posted on Black Entertainment Television's website. "Instead of admitting he made mistakes and trying to continue on, it seems as if he's putting the blame everywhere except for on himself."

He obviously did what he did out of spite towards his former employer, and perhaps he didn't realize that attempting to take down the New York Times is also an attempt to take down all print journalism... except maybe the Washington Post. If Blair had problems with The Times, he should have just quit. With his credentials he could have gotten a job with any newspaper in the country.

Blair is unrepentant for his crimes and comes off as proud he "fooled some of the most brilliant people in journalism" and cripple the profession. He's also looking forward to a potential seven-figure deal he may get for a TV movie, the report said.

Blair shouldn't get a movie deal. He should get a prison sentence. God willing, he'll be the future editor in chief of the Terre Haute Federal Prison Times and the proceeds from his deal will go to the families and readers he betrayed. He had everything a young journalist dreams of, but he decided to commit fraud and betray the public trust instead.

It's an outrage, and there's a whole newsroom full of college students in room 114 of Valley College's business/journalism building who would love to explain just that to the Judas of journalism in a dark alley.

"I really think that Blair's

“He had everything a young journalist dreams of, but he decided to commit fraud and betray the public trust instead.”

was unsure of himself and had to fabricate and plagiarize because he was afraid he'd look incompetent if he relied on his own abilities. That's foolish for many reasons.

Jayson Blair was obviously intelligent, talented and motivated. A resume more impressive than most professional journalists proves this. But only a genius could have pulled off what he did.

Some say The Times only hired and retained the black reporter because of an affirmative action quota to meet. If that were the case, The Times would have employed Blair as a copy clerk or editorial assistant and

African-American reporters to succeed, and there are hundreds of white junior managers who resent that and don't." Blair said in a recent New York Observer interview. "I have anecdotes upon anecdotes that I'm not going to share. A book full of anecdotes."

No one has walked a mile in Blair's shoes, but whether The Times editors treated him unfairly or disrespectfully is debatable, even from taking his own words to heart in the Observer interview. Perhaps sharing a few of those anecdotes may help his position. He also blamed his misdeeds on drug and alcohol abuse.

# Here Come the Patsies

## PART II: THE WHEAT

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Don't despair, the kooky candidates on last week's list for the Democratic presidential nomination are already fading in the mist. Here come the patsies who may not be patsies after all.

Meet Howard Dean, a two-term governor of Vermont. This firmly pro-choice Yale-educated physician aborted his run at the presidency in 2000. He gained national notoriety when he granted full legal recognition to same-sex couples in Vermont.

Dean is reminiscent of Bill Clinton in that he's highly intelligent, well-educated and enjoys expounding on issues. But he'll remind nobody of Clinton in his willingness to take a stand on controversial issues. His web-

site's criticism of Bush's foreign policy is detailed. He firmly supports universal health care, and he's not shy about providing ideas to fund it, including repealing Bush's tax cuts.

But the debate's terms have changed with the 9-11 Doppler shifting the general political spectrum further to the right. In a time when the Dixie Chicks get crucified for criticizing the president, could the country vote for someone this left, even if he can prove he's right?

From Al Gore's short list of vice presidential candidates in 2000 comes Senator John Edwards (N.C.), a generic liberal-centrist who's raised more than \$8 million. Although his score from the League of Conservation Voters, who call

## Letter to the Editor

I'd like to congratulate to the Valley Star staff for completing a challenging semester.

You've covered pending state budget cuts and a sexual assault on campus, as well as lighter fare, such as festivals and concerts. Some of you may decide to make a career out of journalism and others may not. But the one thing I hope you'll continue to do is ask questions and challenge the status quo.

You saw that properly informed, motivated students could make a difference when the governor's May budget revision included a much lower cut to community college budgets than his original January budget.

Too often, it's easy to ignore the world around you. As journalists, you were forced to look at events happening around you and figure out why they were important, what the public should care about them, and get sources to explain what the future would hold. Then you had to write about it in clear, concise English in 12 column inches on deadline or find the one perfect photograph that would illustrate it and hope no one cropped it badly.

Whatever career path you choose, I hope you continue to stay informed, ask questions, vote, volunteer and do your part to change the world, not merely react to the changes other make.

Again, congratulations on all your hard work.

Lisa M. Soddors  
Reporter, Los Angeles Daily News

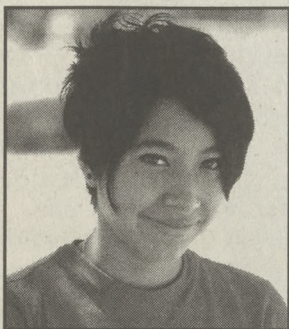
## VALLEY STAR STAFF

<b>EDITOR IN CHIEF</b> BEN JAURON	<b>COPY EDITORS</b> KATHARINE ANDERSON STERLING ANDREWS KATHY ARELLANO	<b>STAFF WRITERS</b> JACQUI BROWN JACKIE CONLEY JAMES DABBAGIAN IVY DAI SERENA DANIELS CHRISTINA GRATE ALEJANDRO GUZMAN BILLIE JORDAN	<b>PHOTOGRAPHERS</b> SALVADOR AGUILAR JESUS CARRENO ALEXANDER DASH BENJAMIN FAVELA JORGE GALLEGOS BOB TEICHMANN
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E-MAIL: thevalleystar@yahoo.com WEBSITE: <http://www.lavalleystar.com>

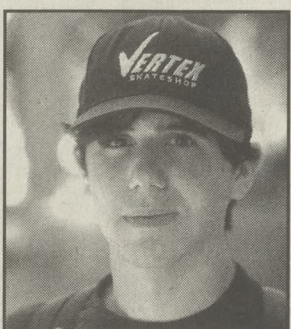
## CampusView

What do you think should be done with Jayson Blair?



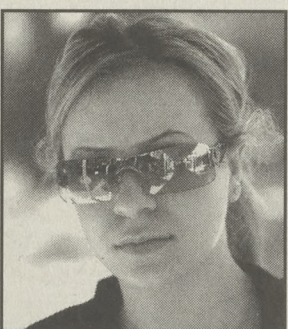
"He should be tarred and feathered."

Esmeralda Revolorio



"He should find a new field of work."

Brian Lerner



"We should just leave him alone. He might have been pressured into doing what he did."

Hermine Baburyan



"He'll probably never work in journalism again. That should be punishment enough."

Kendra Hartmann

PHOTOS BY ALEX DASH

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## THEATER

"Sylvia," presented by Valley Collegiate Players, 8 p.m. May 29-31 in the Horseshoe Theatre. Admission Charge.

## Final Exam Schedule

## June 3

Class Time: 6:30 a.m. TTh,  
Final Exam Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Class Time: 9:40 TTh or TThF  
Final Exam Time: 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Class Time: 1 p.m. TTh or TThF  
Final Exam Time: 12:30-2:30 p.m.

## June 4

Class Time: 8 or 8:15 MTWTh or MW or MWF  
Final Exam Time: 8-10 a.m.  
Class Time: 11:20 MTWTh or MW or MWF  
Final Exam Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Class Time: 2:20 or 2:40 p.m. MTWTh or MW  
Final Exam Time: 1-3 p.m.

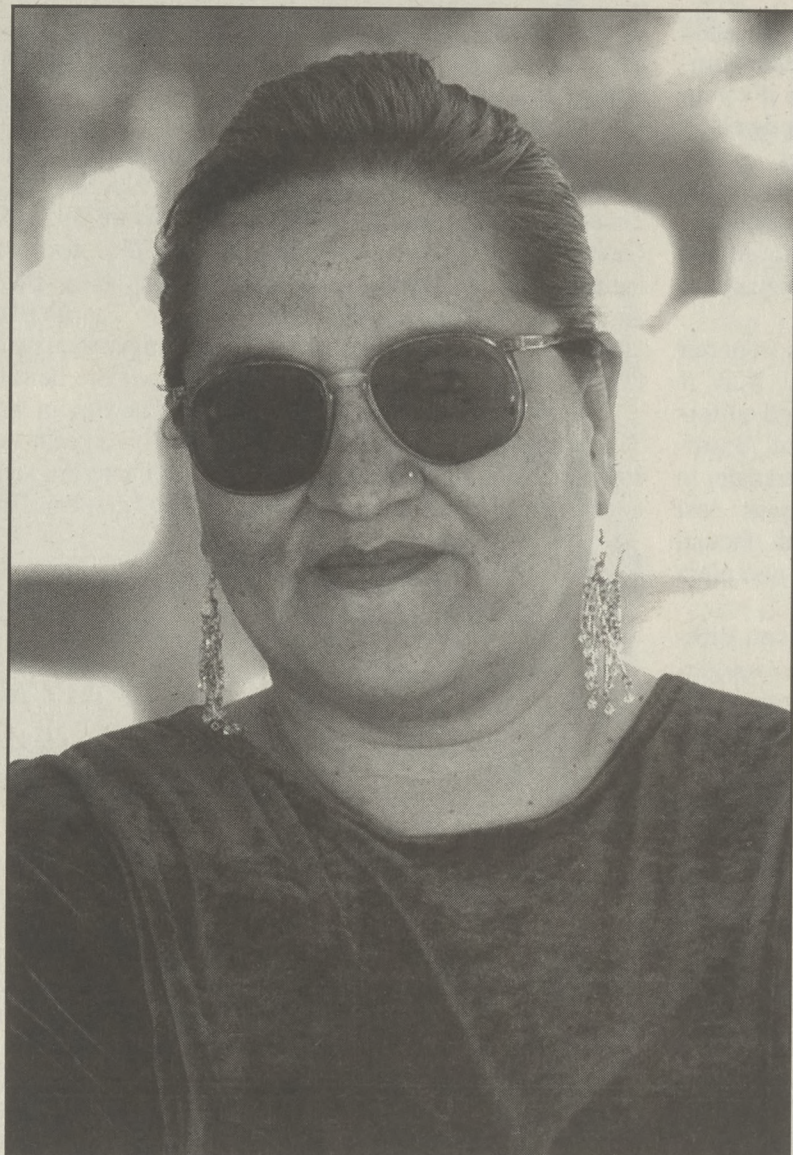
## June 5

Class Time: 8 or 8:15 a.m. TTh or TThF  
Final Exam Time: 8-10 a.m.  
Class Time: 11:0 a.m. TTh or TThF  
Final Exam Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Class Time: 1:45 p.m. TTh or TThF  
Final Exam Time: 1-3 p.m.

## June 9

Class Time: 6:30-6:45 p.m. MW or MTWTh  
Final Exam Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Class Time: 9:40 a.m. MTWTh or MW or MWF  
Final Exam Time: 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Class Time: 1 p.m. MTWTh or MW or MWF  
Final Exam Time: 12:30-2:30 p.m.

## Valley's Diamond in the Rough



RECYCLE- Associated Student Union commissioner of campus and environmental affairs Sonja Brown started the paper recycling program on campus.

BY KATHY ARELLANO  
COPY EDITOR

Sonja Brown came to Valley College as part of the Greater Avenues in Independence Departments's (G.A.I.N.) program, taking the commissioner of campus and environmental affairs position in 2001 and fulfilling Associated Student Union adviser Sherri Rodriguez' request to get a paper recycling program going.

"The one person I don't want to let down is Sherri," Brown said. "She genuinely cares for us and that means a lot."

"Sonja is one of those phenomenal women," Rodriguez said. "She's a quiet, humble leader who gets the job done."

Brown said meeting Suzanne Pollard from the Weyerhaeuser recycling plant got her excited about environmental issues. Brown wanted to educate the student body with involvement opportunities like the Valley Environmental Coalition and the First Annual Environmental Awareness Fair.

"Sonja was very instrumental in getting the recycling program going," Pollard said. "She set up a workshop for people to learn about our program. All I did was help set it up."

Brown's environmental sensitivity may be connected to her Native American upbringing. She's a descendant of Sitting Bull and grew up on the Standing Rock Indian reservation outside Fort Yates, N. D. Her Lakota Sioux name is White Bird Woman, which her mother, Laverne Tiger gave her in a ceremony.

Brown joined the Black Student Union because she loves cultures and found that students don't have to be black to join.

Brown is the fourth of 10 children. Her mother was an alcoholic and assured Sonja she was a smart girl and should go to school. He mother was killed in a plane crash in 1987.

"The Mormons would come to the reservation in North Dakota to sign kids up

for school," said Brown. "Once I turned nine, my mom signed papers and I would just get on a bus with the other kids and go to Idaho, where I would live with a foster family while attending Mormon school. I did this for several years."

Brown said that as she matured she took up with other teens on the reservation. During her 14th summer, she started smoking, drinking and running around. She came to California in 1977 and was married a year later.

She was a Mormon for 22 years and said that the Mormon Church is responsible for teaching her high moral values and a strong sense of family.

"My kids were my life — Girl Scouts, PTA, church, late night barbecues," Brown said. "I think I got that from the Mormon Church, too."

Alcohol abuse continued to be a big problem, according to Brown, to the point that she became homeless. Her husband left her, taking their seven children to Puerto Rico. She slept in an abandoned house in Echo Park and panhandled to pay for her habit.

"I met a man on the streets — a nice man," Brown said. "I saw someone come up to him and slice at his throat — he was almost killed. I was afraid to be on the streets anymore, so I checked myself into the Victory Outreach San Fernando Women's Home on May 1, 1993. I'll never forget it."

Brown graduated 18 months later from the women's rehabilitation program and has never looked back. According to Brown, she and her husband of seven years, Nathaniel, started out as friends during rehab, and have made a shared commitment to help others out of trouble.

Brown's life is much better now because she has made it so. She loves long car trips. She plans to continue her education and her dream is to be a professional.

"I want to teach third grade and have my own house and go to Hawaii," Brown said.

## 'Sylvia'-That Darn Dog

BY KATHY ARELLANO  
COPY EDITOR

"Sylvia" is a play for anyone who has ever loved or hated a dog. Written by A. R. Gurney, directed by Jay Alan Ransom and performed by the Valley Collegiate Players, this wonderful tale takes place in present-day New York. It's the story of a middle-aged man named Greg, his dog Sylvia and his wife's career plans.

From the moment Sylvia bounds onstage in her pink rhinestone collar, this black Labrador steals the hearts of the audience. Rashika Marletto is the amazing actress who brings Sylvia to life, sniffing the crotch of visitors, whining, barking, having an "accident" on the carpet, and twitching her paws and face while in dog dreamland. Marletto's skill and agility are drawn from years of modeling, dance training and acting, and her experience shows in this wonderful portrayal of man's best friend.

Sylvia thinks Greg is God and she loves him without question. Greg, played by Alexander Saavedra, fell in love with Sylvia the moment he found her wandering

at a park. Greg is bored with his job and is all but ignored by his wife, Kate. Sylvia's undying devotion and boundless energy renew Greg's sense of fun and fill up the empty spaces in his life.

Kate, played by Nikki Popkow, has finally gone back to college, now that their kids are grown, and she doesn't want the encumbrance of a pet. She is fully immersed in literature, quoting Shakespeare whenever possible, and has a single-minded focus about her career. She loathes pet hair on the furniture and doesn't like Sylvia. Jealousy creeps in when she hears Greg calling Sylvia by the endearing terms he once saved for her. She begins to see the dog as a rival, sensing a diabolical plot to steal Greg away from her.

Vann Frazier, Julia Goretsky and Katherine Young do a wonderful job with their supporting roles in "Sylvia" and have all appeared in various productions.

There are several messages in this heartwarming story about compassion, life changes, trying new things and being happy.

I guarantee you will leave the Horseshoe Theater with a smile on your face. You may even want to stop by the pound and adopt a dog.

### LAVC Choir and Chamber Singers Perform in Harmony and Spirit

Soloist Rizelle Albano sings a  
Mercer/Mancini medley Thursday  
in the Music Recital Hall.

Photos by Jorge Gallegos



## 'Buffy' Slayed-Reruns Last Resort

BY KATHARINE ANDERSON  
COPY EDITOR

Tuesday nights may never be the same. May 20 was the end of an era for many. Some will never admit it, some cried openly and others took it with an air of stoicism. But the fact remains - the final episode of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" tore fans asunder.

For seven years the witty repertoire and heart-wrenching storyline kept fans riveted. They watched their heroine die twice, only to come back stronger and better than before. But now, there will be no resurrection. It's over. And viewers can't help but to ask "Why?"

"The overall consensus was for the show to go out on a high note," said Stacey Levin, spokesperson for 20th Century Fox. "They were on the top of their game in creativity. It was best to end there."

With so many shows hanging on until ratings tell them its over, "Buffy" began and ended with the same high energy. Making its television debut in March 1997, it battled a stigma of failure from the 1992 movie with

the same title. But the show paved its own path, and soon a cult following began.

Critics agreed that the show's high point was its fourth season Emmy-nominated episode "Hush," which featured 29 minutes without dialogue, still maintaining the quality storytelling "Buffy" is acclaimed for. Then the show surpassed itself with "Once More With Feeling," the also-nominated musical episode in season six, where the cast sang and danced their way to save the day.

In the seventh season, the creative team outdid themselves again. The finale received stellar reviews and brought Buffy her worst foe - The First. Faced with "the original evil, the one that came before anything else," Buffy and the Scoobies averted yet another apocalypse, all the while maintaining their glib chatter, keeping viewers amused.

Now that it's the end, fans are wondering "Where Do We Go From Here?" "Angel," a "Buffy" spin-off series, will return next season with familiar faces, and for "Buffy" fans who need a daily dose, the show is in reruns Monday to Friday on the FX channel.

## See You in September

SLICE OF LIFE BY JACQUI BROWN



Just a farewell column to all who've read my stories, sent fan mail, said nice things about me and allowed me to continue to share little personal glimpses of life I thought might entertain you.

To all the students I've stalked on campus for quotes and opinions, I want to thank you for not walking past me like I was some kind of telemarketer. Your words were important.

To the staff and faculty around campus that I've hounded endlessly for information during this semester, you've got a two-month break, because in the words of Arnold Schwarzenegger, "I'll be back."

To Sherri Rodriguez, you are a wealth of information and so generous with your time, even though you're incredibly busy. And thank you, Yasmin Delahoussaye, for the lunch invitation even though we never got around to it.

To the girls in the president's office, Jeanne Rubin and Eileen Katz, thank you for allowing me to hang with you on occasion and for sharing your wonderful humor. Your smiling faces always brighten my day and hopefully I will see you at the fitness center (hint-hint) next semester - Eileen.

Tyree, what can I say? You have hundreds of people demanding your time, meetings to attend, furniture to shop for (please pick the cushy seats), yet you allowed me some of your valuable time to

sit and talk about budgets and bond measures and whatever else I needed. It's refreshing to know that, with the daily grind and the pressures you face, you have managed to retain such a wonderful sense of humor. Thank you for never having kicked me out of your office.

To the staff of the Valley Star - what can I say? Oh yeah, GET OUT OF MY FACE! We all know the amount of work it takes to put a newspaper together: finding stories, writing them, re-writing them, re-writing them, sorry... I'm so used to doing everything twice, I lost my train of thought. Taking photos, laying out the paper, making everything fit the page and above all: making deadline! I will truly miss the Tuesday screaming matches as deadline approaches. NOT!! I take my hat off to each and every one of you for all the sweat you've put in and for making this paper befit the General Excellence award we won at the Journalism Association of Community College's conference this year. Thank you for your humor in times of stress and for putting up with my wacky sense of life's little thoughts. To the copy editors, I kiss the ground you walk on for making it appear that I know how to spell.

To Rod Lyons for listening to, and putting up with, all my bad jokes. It takes a big man to come back, time and time again, after being the brunt of many of my stranger-than-life comments. I'm impressed with your stamina - putting up with me and still smiling

each time I come in the newsroom and asking me what's up. You're one tough cookie.

To my editor in chief, Ben Jauron, the commando, sorry I meant commander, the beacon of power behind what's acceptable and what sucks. You've maintained, throughout the semester, that amazing ability to drop a writer with one finger at the click of the delete button while standing steadfast at the helm. It hasn't always been easy, (as in never), to keep the troops happy all the time with so many varied personalities and styles. Your patience, strained to the brink at times, has helped me become a better writer (I think) and without your direction I might have ended up being classified under "what sucks." Thank you for staying up till 4 a.m. in Sacramento to help me write my story for the JACC competition, even though I got disqualified for a lousy spelling mistake. It was a damn good story though.

To Bill Dauber, I've finally learned to spell your name correctly. Thank you for making the paper my home. Where would my words have gone, had it not been for you? Thank you for your trust, patience and confidence. From the first column, you allowed me to write. My wings have spread and I have flown. You are my inspiration. The fact that we have the same sick sense of humor hasn't hurt, either.

Thank you!



## 'Speakers' *continued from page 2*

benefit who I am. I graduated with an AA and I'm at CSUN now."

Agazaryan, the Associated Student Union commissioner of political affairs, planned to start her college education back east at a private institution but realized the financial burden it would put on her family. She decided to change her plans and walk up the street to Valley and get her degree here.

"The impact of their speech was very important," said Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice

president of student services. "We also considered whether they stuck to the theme and kept it within the time limit allowed."

"Even though it's Valley College, it means a lot to me to graduate and now I will move on to UCLA," Agazaryan said. "It feels like I've been here so long. I've poured so much of my life into this school, it was really important to me to be a speaker at commencement." Agazaryan will also sing the national anthem at the event.

## 'Jobs' *continued from page 1*

some have barriers like limited English skills and others with child-care issues. The job club offers some positions at entry-level wages and others up to and including Ph.D.s. We try to have a good cross-section of jobs available from minimum wage to \$100,000."

"I'm looking for anything," said Marcella Wurie, another job club attendee. "I've applied for a lot of jobs and have had responses from applications on the Internet and interviews over the phone. You have to be really strong and continue looking."

Many college students would do better to lower their sights in the short term and take a "go-for" — i.e., "go for coffee" — job in an industry or profession that interests them, according to Robert Reich, a professor of social and economic policy at Brandeis University and former U.S. secretary of labor. Reich also said that even if the job doesn't pay much it could provide a window on that

particular world of work. Once they're in the door, they will have a better chance of finding work they love when the economy rebounds.

Students currently searching for work can always check the job listings outside the Job Resource Center in bungalow 49. There are listings for part time, full time and temporary work in numerous fields.

"We offer students resume and job searching workshops," said Pat Guerrero, assistant to the cooperative education director and the Job Resource Center.

The Valley College Job Training Center offers job training to qualified applicants in computer, general office, child development and other career choices.

"Sometimes people get confused and they think they'll get a job here," said Job Training Center employee Liz Nunez. "This center is for people having a hard time finding a job and that need new skills."

## 'Revitalization' *continued from page 1*

Dennison, principal of Anshen & Allen. The firm has received all the programming information for the building, which tells them what facilities and resources it will need. Anshen & Allen will begin the design project next week. They'll complete the construction documents by April 2004, and the building should be complete by 2007.

Valley and URS will conduct selection interviews for the gymnasium complex and media arts center Friday, and announce the architects by the first week of June. Valley and the bond-program managers hosted a pre-submittal conference for prospective architects and engineers for the library learning resource center. The mandatory meeting gave interested firms information and requirements about the project. Statements of qualification are due June 5, and then Valley will select four or five to interview.

The Viron Corporation is conducting infrastructure and demand studies to determine if there's enough energy to power the new buildings and how the gas and electricity will be channeled to them. The engineering tunnels that run under Valley will not reach the site of the future media arts center.

Interviews for a consulting group to conduct the campus security study will be held June 18.

## 'Toilets' *continued from page 2*

with the budget cuts it might mean the difference between having toilet paper or students washing their hands.

A suggestion might be to bring personal toilet paper or a newspaper because one never knows what one will be up against.

Anyone with information can call the Sheriff's office at 947-2911.

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## 'TIPS' *continued from page 2*

them away after they're done with them."

When smokers throw their butts on the ground they get into the sewer and wind up in the ocean, Knappen said. "A butt opens up in the ocean, toxins spread. Not only are we killing the fish, we're polluting everything." Knappen sweeps up the butts when he's not working at

the P.E. facilities. "It's a dirty job, but it's better than polluting the ocean," Knappen said.

Knappen said secondhand smoke is bad for everybody, especially students with asthma and the animals on campus.

"There are ashtrays on campus and smokers can see them," student Marie Batiste said.

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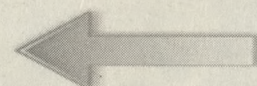
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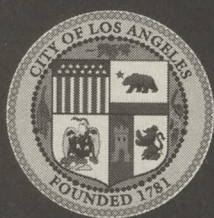


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## SPORTS



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**SOCCER JOY**—Monarchs' midfielder Marie Escudero (left) and forward Vicky Granados (right) make practice a delightful place to be as they get in shape for the upcoming season.

## Monarch Womens' Soccer Team Prepares for Upcoming Season

BY ALEJANDRO GUZMAN  
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College women's soccer team began conditioning for next season with only two returning players, defender Brenda Garcia and possibly midfielder Maria Flores. Center midfielder Friday Camacang and left midfielder Marie Escudero add some world class soccer talent to the team. Both played for the Philippine National soccer team. Head Coach Eric Archila has the task of building a com-

petitive team with mostly new talent.

Although official practice hasn't started, the spring semester's soccer conditioning class has helped coach Archila get to know some of the prospective team leaders.

"I know many of the girls that are training now will be team leaders once the season starts," Archila said.

The team practices Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., a rather relaxed schedule that leaves some team members wanting

more practice time.

"I don't think it's enough, we should practice more," said sophomore Olga Pedraza, who left City College to play on Archila's squad.

Team practice consists of pure physical fitness. They start by moving the ball around and making sure to use every part of the body. Their foot skills are developed through passing drills and they stretch once the drills are finished. Then they sprint for 30 to 45 minutes, followed by various jumping exercises.

"At this time we are focusing on speed exercises without using the ball," said Archila.

The integration of men on the field is a tactic that is helping prepare the team physically. Male soccer players, often times stronger and faster than the females, help the team understand the importance of good long passing and swift movement.

The team will have its first scrimmage in August against El Camino in a friendly game that may prove useful to the Monarchs squad.

"Here we will have a good chance to acquire power points," said Archila. Power points can give Valley a higher percentage for beating a higher-ranked opponent. El Camino ranks in the state's top 10.

Coach Archila believes his team is off to a good start and will be competitive when the season starts.

"It's still early, but the team is coming together," Archila said. "I have high hopes for next season."

## Bond Measures Revitalize Valley's Aging Sports Facilities

BY ALEJANDRO GUZMAN  
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College athletics complexes will receive a portion of the propositions A and AA funds to revitalize the sports facilities. Of the \$165 million Valley acquired from Proposition A passed spring 2001, the campus will use \$18 million on sports complexes.

"The amount being spent is flexible as it stands," Valley president Tyree Wieder said. "The sports complexes are one of our many priorities."

The plan for the gymnasium

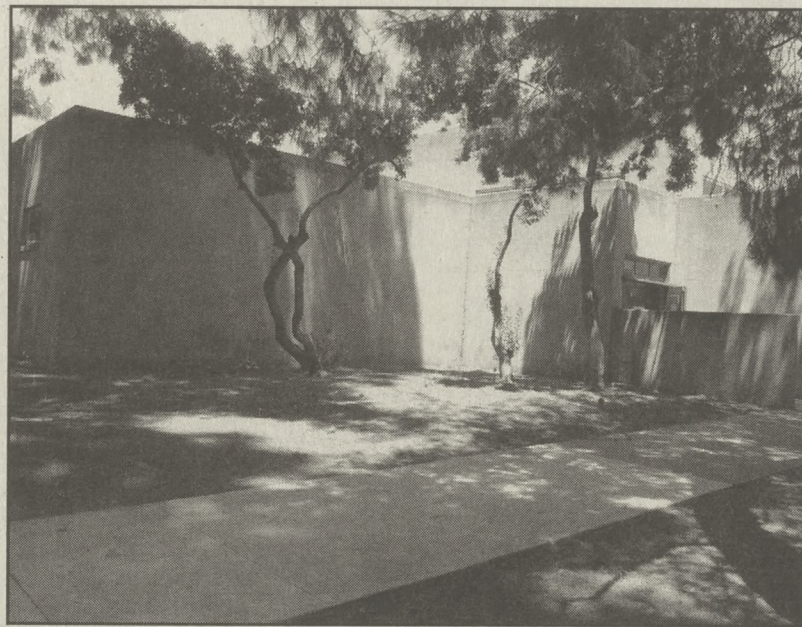
complex includes a newly-renovated south gym, expanding and renovating the north gym and building three new pools, which will cost roughly \$13.4 million. The renovation of the athletic fields will cost around \$5.8 million.

As a part of field renovations, there will be a new baseball clubhouse where the baseball field now stands. The archery range will relocate to the northeast side of parking lot G. The football stadium will get new field turf and a new concession stand.

"The programming effort for the athletics fields and facilities is going to kick off next week," the renovations' project manager Alix O'Brien said Friday.

Although these changes are five to seven years away, the athletics department is glad to know that improvements are in progress at Valley.

"Everyone else is renovated, everyone already has it," athletic director Chuck Ferrero said. "If we get everything on the drawing board, then we'll be better off."



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**OLD NORTH GYM**—The south and north gym will be remodeled as part of the bond measures to revitalize the sports facilities. Changes will be complete in five to seven years.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### MLB

Roger Clemens is still in search of the elusive 300th win. He struggled Monday giving up eight earned runs in five and two-third innings in a losing effort against the hated Boston Red Sox. Clemens sits on 299 wins in his career and will try next week to become the 21st pitcher in baseball history to win 300 games.

The Dodgers have won ten in a row and are still looking for more. They swept the Brewers over the weekend behind the arms of Darren Dreifort, Hideo Nomo and Kevin Brown. The Dodgers start a three-game series in Colorado tied for first with the San Francisco Giants. The pitching staff has a major league best 2.68 ERA and have combined for 38 quality starts in 50 games.

Major League baseball's single-season home run king Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants will miss his fourth consecutive game. Bonds injured his right knee attempting to catch a fly ball and crashed into the leftfield wall in Colorado. He has been diagnosed with mild tendonitis and is listed day to day.

### NBA

The San Antonio Spurs took advantage of the hobbled Dallas Mavericks taking a 3-1 series lead headed into tonight's game in San Antonio. Dirk Nowitzki, the Mavericks leading scorer and rebounder, is questionable for tonight's game and may be out for the rest of the series. He hyper-extended his knee in the third game of the series and without Nowitzki the Mavericks title hopes look dim.

New Jersey point guard Jason Kidd's sprained ankle is recovering. Although he limped considerably in the Nets win Saturday, the Nets expect Kidd to play without any restrictions in the NBA Finals.

### NFL

Detroit Lions wide receiver Scotty Anderson and his brother former NFL receiver Stevie Anderson were stabbed in the parking lot of a Houston nightclub Monday night. Stevie was hospitalized in critical condition in Houston. Scotty's wounds were not considered life threatening, but he may miss the Lions' training camp. Two men were arrested fleeing the scene later that evening.

New York Giants defensive tackle Keith Hamilton will be charged with possession of cocaine and marijuana after police pulled him over for having tinted windows in Trenton, N.J. Hamilton, a 12-year NFL veteran, may face disciplinary action from the Giants and the league.

### NHL

After 18 years of guarding the net, Patrick Roy has had enough. With 551 wins in his career Roy, 37, has retired. The four-time Stanley Cup winner and NHL's career leader in playoff wins with 151 finished his career with the Colorado Avalanche.

The Anaheim Mighty Ducks will face the New Jersey Devils in the Stanley Cup Finals. The Ducks go into their first ever finals appearance with one of the league's best goaltenders in Jean-Sebastien Giguere. So far in the playoffs, Giguere has 4 shutouts, 12 wins and 476 saves. The Ducks will need more of the same from him in order to complete the best season in their history.

JAYSON ADDCOX

SPORTS EDITOR

## An Opinion

I'm all for the NFL coming back to Los Angeles, but I'm not sure I want to go out to Carson and sit atop a landfill to watch a game. I'd rather tailgate with my buddies in front of the Olympic rings and the lit torch that greet you at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Or I'd like to sing the National Anthem in the comfort of a newly renovated, tradition-rich Rose Bowl. But not Carson Stadium.

The NFL agreed last week to spend as much as \$10 million on the potential stadium site in Carson. The owners voted 30 to 1—only Al Davis of the Oakland Raiders stood against it. The decision means Pasadena is no longer the front-runner and the Coliseum is virtually out of the race to win the next team. NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said last week that the Pasadena and Carson projects were essentially tied in the eyes of the league. Rose Bowl officials are upset since they're now working on a potential renovation to satisfy the NFL.

"We've been at this for 10 months," said John Moag, the point man for Pasadena's NFL effort. "We've been through a complete design process, we've begun the environmental impact report, and we've produced a full-blown traffic and parking plan."

The NFL, just like all the other professional leagues, just wants new toys. New stadiums, new cars, new homes, everyone is infatuated with new. The NBA recently received a couple new arenas — the Staples Center and the SBC center in San Antonio. Major League Baseball received Minute Maid Park in Houston, Pac Bell in San Francisco, Miller Park in Milwaukee and a few others. What happened to tradition? What happened to memories? What happened to the Coliseums, the Yankee Stadiums, the Fenway Parks and the Soldier Fields?

Chavez Ravine, the home of our beloved Dodgers since 1962, is now a potential site for the NFL. If Tampa Bay owner Malcom Glazer buys the Dodgers, Dodger Stadium could become the next NFL stadium and the Dodgers would relocate somewhere downtown. I can't even fathom the idea, the Dodgers are our team and Chavez Ravine is our home. Although it's just one possible plan among many, I just hope it's not at the expense of our baseball home.

The Coliseum turned 80 this month. I wasn't around when Wally Moon hit his famous "Moon Shots" in front of 90,000 fans, but I love when my father tells me about it. I love it even more when I go to the Coliseum and I picture the short left-field porch and 90,000 fans cheering. I get goose bumps when I see the Olympic rings and the two statues out front. I wouldn't want to watch the USC-Notre Dame games anywhere else. But the NFL would rather invest its money on Carson.

The Rose Bowl is 81 and its stories are endless. The UCLA Bruins are the main occupants, but the Rose Bowl continues to feature the annual New Year's day game. It has been the site of the Super Bowl, and now the NFL should grant Pasadena's granddaddy of all stadiums the next NFL team. That would be the right thing to do.



## ‘Wheat’ *continued from page 3*

themselves “the political voice of the environmental movement,” is relatively low, he’s pro-choice and health care reform. He’s criticized Bush’s bull-in-a-china-shop approach to foreign policy, yet supported Gulf War II.

His website lays out progressive stances on various issues like education and the economy, but avoids comment on hotter issues. Instead of taking a stand on, say, gun control or the PATRIOT Act, it dribbles, “At the heart of the American dream there’s a simple bargain; if you work hard and play by the rules, America will give you the opportunity to build a better future.”

Two of Edwards’ top lieutenants defected to rival Graham, his senate seat in conservative N.C. is open for reelection in 2004 and the Department of Justice is investigating him for campaign funding irregularities — he’s returned \$10,000. Still, his consideration for Gore’s veep and mutant superpower to fundraise makes Edwards a contender for the nomination.

Congressman Richard Gephardt (Mo.) is media-savvy enough to appear on Comedy Central’s *The Daily Show*, where he made strong statements opposing Bush’s policies. But where was this fire when the resolution to give the president

the power to declare war rolled through? Where was this dissent when the PATRIOT Act was spawning from the primordial ooze?

Gephardt gets high grades from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the AFL-CIO, and he’s made universal health care his central issue lately. But he receives the lowest score among the contenders from the League of Conservation Voters (66 percent). He thrice voted to ban partial-term abortions, and once to prohibit federal funds for abortions (with the usual exceptions).

Gephardt is an eight-year House Democratic leader, way in front in the race for party endorsements and a fundraising whiz. But he lacks a defined personality and his long ties to party leadership may work against him. Nevertheless, he’s certainly the nomination’s front-runner.

Apparently the Dems’ great white hope is 19-year Senator John Kerry (Mass.). He has high scores on most ‘liberal’ issues cards, including 100 percent from the American Civil Liberties Union. He’s a Yale-educated and highly-decorated Vietnam War veteran. A fixture on the Foreign Relations committee, he’s critical of Bush’s foreign policy even though he supported Gulf War II.

He co-sponsored the Hate Crimes Prevention bill, pushing to include gays and lesbians. Kerry staunchly supports universal health care and AIDS and breast cancer funding. He strongly criticizes the administration’s tax cut plan and emphasizes aid for small businesses.

Kerry has also voted in favor of federal grants for faith-based charities, and his commitment to free trade includes fighting a required review of China’s human rights progress. His recent battle with prostate cancer may also be a campaign liability.

The Chicago Sun-Times anointed him the favorite based on the first debate, despite a manner sometimes called cold. The vet’s seat on Foreign Relations gives him credibility in areas where others, like Bush, lack. He has raised nearly \$8 million.

As with Dean, Kerry may be painted as too far left for a country still operating in siege mode. Time will tell.

So there are the contenders, such as they are. But with the Democrats’ current disarray we may have to look at four more years of W and his ominous strategy no matter what.

Then again, the first Bush had an even higher approval rating following Gulf War I, and he was a one-termer. So citizens’ votes may still matter.

## ‘Business’ *continued from page 1*

“I don’t think people know there’s a ton of money to be used for everything from hard hats to promotional products,” Brownstone president and Valley alumnus Diane Nathanson said. “The city is a business — a big business. It needs all the things other businesses need.”

Several city departments set up information tables representing the Department of Water

and Power, airports, harbors, Information Technology Agency, Department of General Services and others.

The city gives companies certified as a “Small and Local Business” a 10 percent preference applied to contracts of \$100,000 or less, according to the Los Angeles Office of Contract Compliance. They must renew certification annually.

“Sometimes the city has to pay a little more,” said Mario Marin, director of Los Angeles Opportunities for Procurement and Service. “Contracts are awarded to support small businesses.”

“I’m here to drum up some business,” said Rian Thomas, owner of N-Common Mediation.

## ‘Anthem’

*continued from page 2*

Jazz band will accompany the singers.

Before the selection, the judges auditioned members of the group separately in case the trio didn’t work. But, the sum of the whole was definitely better than its parts.

There was no apparent rivalry about separate auditions. “I’d like to sing it alone, but it’ll be better if we sing it together,” McGuire said.

## ‘Finals’ *continued from page 1*

Campos said she counters stress with yoga, meditation and eating, especially chocolate.

People feel calmer after smoking or binge eating because both activities force one’s breathing to slow down, according to yoga instructor Rupa at the Arcadia All-Pro Health Club. Learning to control one’s breathing is a core goal behind practicing yogic poses, or asanas.

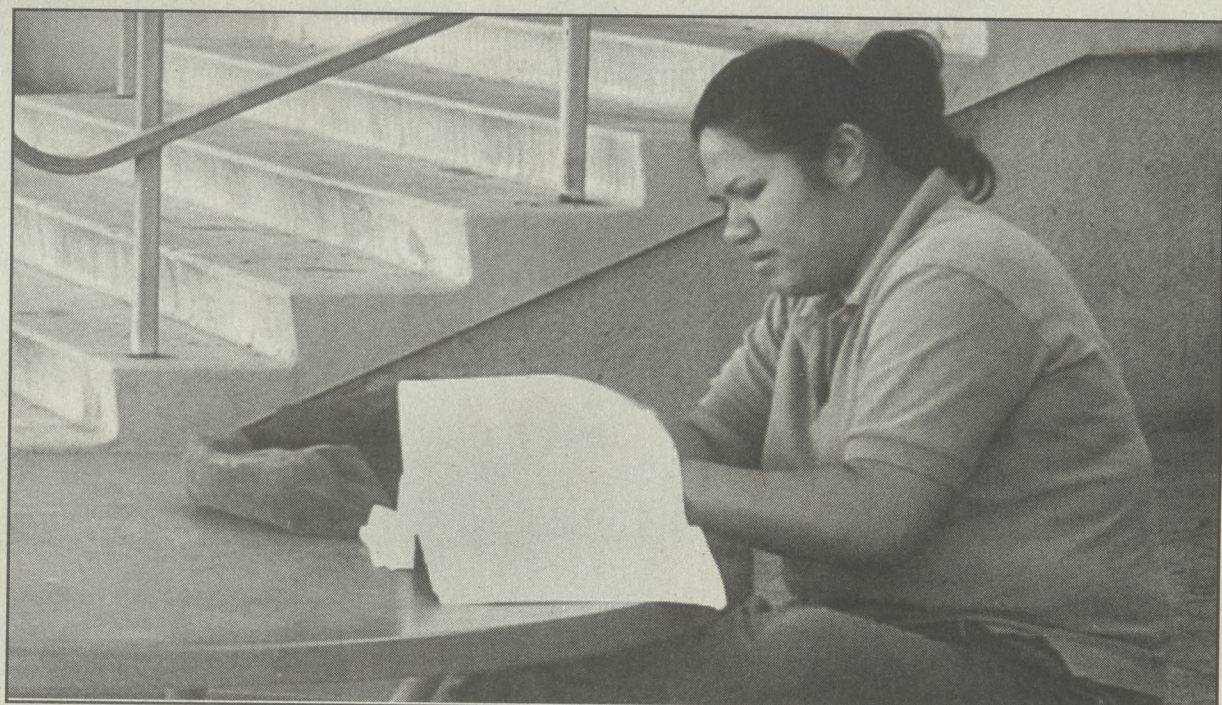
“It all begins with one

breath,” UCLA Wooden Center yoga instructor Sati Ah

said. “The key to becoming relaxed is slow, deep breathing.”

When the pressure becomes too much, a little time off could be the only remedy.

Exercising or going out for a couple of hours will help prepare one mentally for finals and the rest of life’s anxiety-inducing experiences.



BENJAMIN FAVELA / VALLEY STAR

CRAM TIME - Pristine Palalay studies for her biology final near the life sciences building.

## ‘Close’ *continued from page 2*

the way the future’s picture is in motion. Computer support specialists, desktop publishers, medical records and health information technicians are predicted to be the fastest growing occupations, according to a report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The computer support field is expected to grow by 97 percent from 505,600 employees in 2000 to 995,900 by 2010, the report said.

Fifty-four percent of

Valley’s graduates for the 2001-2002 year received associate of art’s degrees, 11 percent received associate of science’s degrees and 35 percent received certificates, including 12 percent skill certificates.

Statistics on degrees and transfers are compiled on an academic year basis, after students have enrolled in a new school. Valley receives all transfer student information from the California Post-Secondary

Education Commission in November.

“We won’t get those numbers until November because no one will have arrived until the fall,” said Cherine Trombley, associate dean of research and planning.

Information taken from *Los Angeles Valley College 2001-2002 Fact Book and Effectiveness Manual*.

advertisement

## Attention Graduating Students

**Did you know that you can reduce the interest rate on your student loans and save thousands of dollars by consolidating your student loans after graduation?**

The Higher Education Act, established by Congress, allows any graduate (or parent with PLUS loans) to consolidate their student loans by combining all their eligible student loans into a single loan issued by a new lender. Graduates who do this immediately after graduation (while they are still in their non-repayment period) are able to reduce the interest rate on all their eligible loans by 0.60% - potentially saving themselves thousands of dollars.

There are several other benefits associated with Student Loan Consolidation and these include:

- The ability to reduce your monthly interest repayments by up to 54% by extending your repayment period. This may help you in matching your income level to your repayment obligations.
- Fixing the interest rate on your loans to take advantage of the historically low interest rates that are currently available for the life of your loans. Your existing loans are variable and could rise over time as interest rates rise. Consolidation can ensure that this doesn’t happen.
- Dealing with only one monthly loan repayment from one lender can make your life easier.
- Save even more on your repayments by taking advantage of ‘borrower benefits’ that can reduce your interest rate by up to an additional 1.25% by making electronic and on-time repayments.

### Does it Matter When You Choose to Consolidate?

Yes. If you are about to graduate (or have recently graduated) timing is critical to maximizing the amount that you can save with consolidation. If you wait too long to apply for consolidation, you might miss out on the opportunity to reduce the interest rate on all your loans by 0.60%.

### What Does it Cost to Consolidate?

There are no fees or credit checks, nor is there any penalty for early repayment of your consolidation loan. Note however, that you can only consolidate once and consolidation can affect certain deferment and cancellation benefits associated with loans.

### Are you about to Graduate?

Act now by registering with the Student Loan Consolidation Program (SLCP). It is free and involves no obligation. SLCP will simply provide you with information on what consolidation is all about and contact you after graduation to remind you of the opportunity to reduce your interest rate by consolidating early.

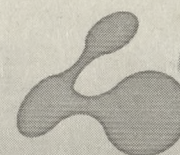
For more information, call a loan counselor at 1-866-311-8076 or click on our ad at [www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com) to see if you qualify for these savings.

While visiting the paper online, be sure and sign up for the email edition. It’s the best way to stay informed beyond graduation, and it’s free.

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STUDENT LOAN CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM

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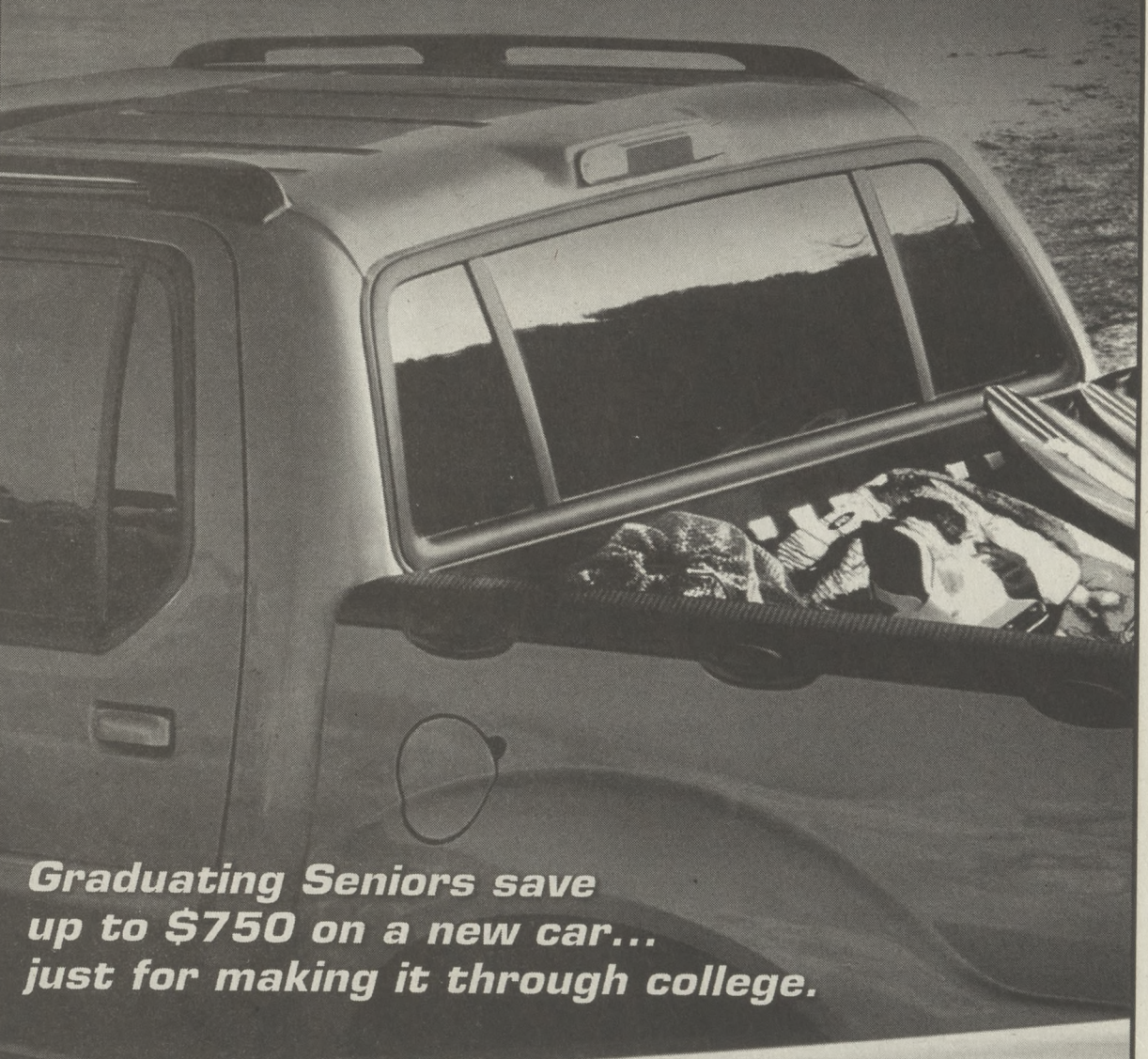
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While visiting the newspaper online, be sure and sign up for the email edition. It’s the best way to stay informed beyond graduation, and it’s free.



# GALLERY



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**HIGH EXPECTATIONS**- Lady Monarchs practice soccer Friday to get ready for the fall season.

## ONE LAST LOOK

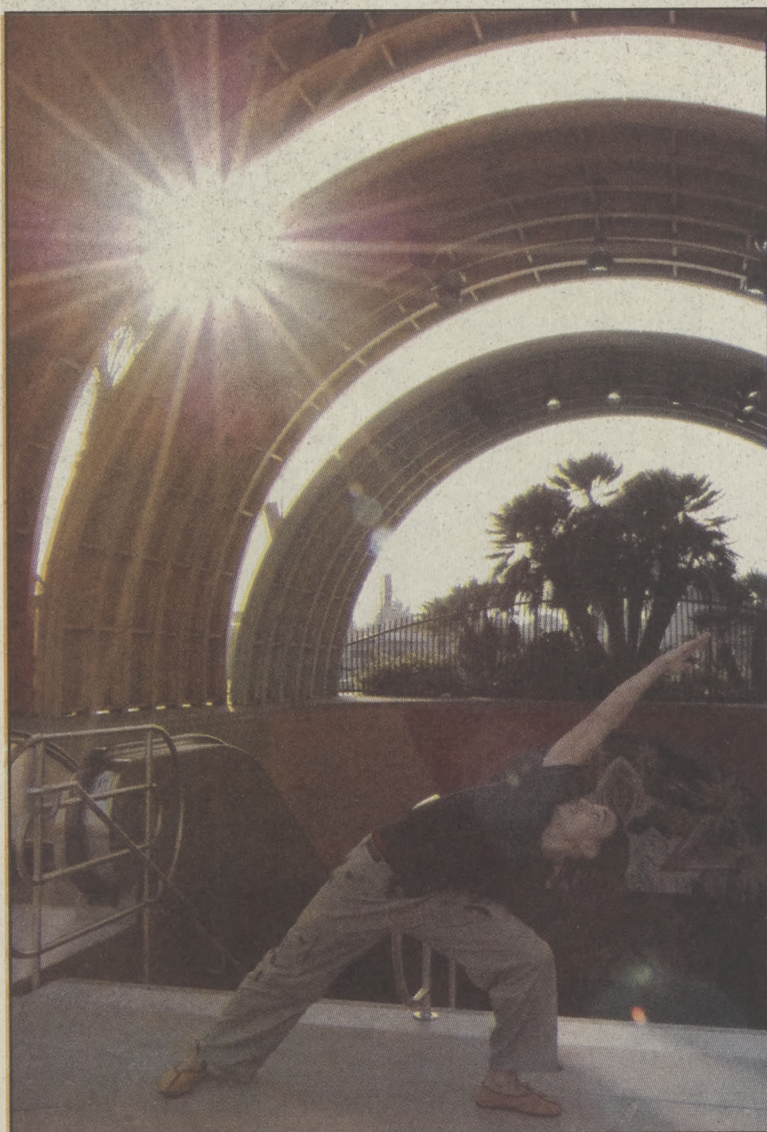


ALEX DASH / VALLEY STAR

**MAKE-UP** - Actress Kristin Palmer patiently awaits her make-up removal after being done up for over 9 hours.

This semester the *Valley Star's* photographers worked day and night searching Valley College and beyond to produce images that bring stories to life. This gallery is a glimpse of the past semester and is just a small sample of the very best of our photographers' work.

LAYOUT AND TEXT BY TAMMY ABBOTT



SAMANTHA KUPPIG / VALLEY STAR

**YOGA** - Adam Springfield arches into a yogic stretch in front of the Lankershim Metro Station.



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

**SLOW MOTION** - Monarchs first baseman Anthony Chervrier has raised his average 80 points from last season to hit over .380



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

**HIGH FLYING** - Cal State Northridge held its national track meet March 22, which included pole vaulting.